SHRI RAM NAIK : Please take up Matters Under Rule 377. It should be followed by Zero Hour up to three o clock.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We are taking up Matters Under Rule 377.

14.16 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need for Early clearance of the proposal for creation of a separate Chhatisgarh State

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE (Bilaspur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a long standing demand for the creation of a separate Chhatisgarh State in Madhya Pradesh. Keeping in view the demand a unanimous resolution was passed in the Vidhan Sabha for the creation of a separate Chhatisgarh state by separating Bilaspur, Raipur, Rajnandgaon, Sarguja, Bastar, Shahdol and Durg districts from Madhya Pradesh and the same was submitted to the Central Government for approval. But no action has been taken by the State Government until now.

Therefore, the Central Government is requested to accord early approval for the creation of separate Chhatisgarh state.

(ii) Need to Set up an Export Processing Zone in Rajasthan

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE (Jhalawar) : Sir, Rajasthan has a vast potential for exports covering engineering and electronic goods, readymade garments, textiles, carpets and darie, gems and jewellery, plastic and handloom, marble and granite and handicrafts. Despite this tremendous export potential, the contribution of the State to exports is only 1.6 per cent.

The State Government of Rajasthan has demanded several times to set up an Export Processing Zone in that State but due to some reason or the other, the request of the State Government has not been considered so far. Once the Expor' Processing Zone is set up in the State, it will go a lo g way in promoting exports from that State. The small scale and cottage industries as well as the major and medium industries producing these items would be given a boost in promoting their trade and industry.

As such, I demand that an Export Processing Zone be created for Rajasthan without any further delay.

(iii) Need to expedite the clearance of the proposals submitted by the Government of Gujarat Under Forest Conservation Act, 1980

[Translation]

SHRI N.J. RATHWA (Chhota Udaipur) : Road and building Department, Mine Mineral Department and Electricity Department of Gujarat State have submitted a number of proposals regarding construction of roads in panchayats situated in backward and rural areas of Gujarat and for according permission for mining of minerals and for laying high tension - low tension line by the Gujarat State Electricity Board from Godhra in Panchmahals district to Chotta Udaipur in Barodara District to Forest and Environment Ministry of the Central Government under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. But no decision has yet been taken on these proposals, as a result of which the developmental works in rural areas of the State have come to a standstill.

The Central Government is requested to accord early approval to the proposals under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 received from the above mentioned Departments of the Government of Gujarat to the Union Ministry of Enviornment and Forest so that developmental works in the aforementioned areas of the State could be speeded up.

(iv) Need to fix minimum support price of Jute at Rs.2000 per quintal

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Arariya) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some years back the price of jute was Rs.15 to 22 per quintal. It has been selling at Rs. 600 to Rs. 750 per quintal for the last about two months. The hon'ble Prime Minister had announced in a public meeting in Kishanganj that the price of jute would be increased in the interest of farmers. I know that the cultivation of jute requires much labour, cost and time.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to raise the minimum support price of jute from Rs.1500 to 2000 per quintal to enable the farmers to recover the cost of cultivation also.

(v) Need to Improve the Conditions of National Highways in Assam Damaged Due to recent floods and Rains

[English]

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : The National Highways in the State of Assam are in a very bad shape. Large Stretches of the Highways have been severely damaged, with big holes here and there. The long neglect in the maintenance work and the heavy rains and floods in recent times have damaged the National Highways. The National Highways in Assam are the lifelines of the road communications, not only for the State of Assam but also for the States of the entire North-East region. The precarious conditions of the National Highways

adversely affect the economy and the economic development of the entire region.

In view of the above, I would urge upon the Union Government to help the State Government of Assam in developing and improving the conditions of the National Highways on a priority basis and thus give a boost to the economic development of the North-East region.

(vi) Need to Establish Fishing Harbours and Fish Landing Centres along the West Coast of Kanyakumari district in Tamil Nadu

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : The Arabian Sea coast of Kanyakumari district is one of the major fish producing centres in the country. Fishermen in large numbers live there. They fully depend on fishing, which is their traditional and the only occupation. Now, the frequent sea erosion which occurs there, has washed away and damaged the natural landing and berthing places of fishing vessels which stand on the way to carry on fishing during monsoon season, and thus during this season for a period of five months, due to rough sea, mighty waves and cruel winds, they cannot operate their fishing vessels into the sea. The only protection to them from these adverse circumstances is the establishment of fishing harbours and fish landing centres along the west coast of Kanyakumari district to enable the fishermen to park, land and operate their fishing vessels. But fishing harbours and fish landing centres have not been established there. So, they go for fishing to the coastal villages of other States throughout the country where they are faced with stiff resistance, harassment and humiliation from local fishermen. So, their survival is threatened.

I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps for the establishment of fishing harbours and fish landing centres along the West coast of Kanyakumari district in Tamil Nadu.

(vii) Need to set up a Hostel in Ghaziabad (U.P.) for the students pursuing higher education

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Ghaziabad district is an important industrial town and since long people of scheduled castes are living in the village of this district. There is a long standing demand for opening a Dr. Ambedkar students hostel in Ghaziabad because in absence of a students hostel people belonging to far-flung villages from the rural areas find it difficult to impart higher education to their wards and therefore, many children stop their education at primary level. They have to face financial difficulty in meeting the daily bus fare to and from the far flung villages and hiring rented rooms in city. Therefore, there could not be any increase in the percentage of education in the area. Therefore, the Central Government is requested to accord immediate approval for opening a Dr. Ambedkar students hostel in Ghaziabad.

(viii) Need for early implementation of Rengali irrigation and OECF assisted Water Supply Projects in Dhenkanal District of Orissa to overcome drought situation

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Sir, the State of Orissa is now reeling under the grip of a severe drought. The State Government of Orissa has declared 12 out of 30 districts in the State as drought-hit districts on the basis of the first crop cutting report. But there are several more districts where drought of severe nature has been prevailing.

The situation in western Orissa is very critical. The people of the tribal dominated districts are fleeing to the neighbouring States in search of job.

The situation in undivided Dhenkanal district is also very critical as the district is facing an acute drought situation. The crop situation became worse in September due to scanty rainfall in Dhenkanal area. The rate of rainfall was only 30 milimetres. About 50 per cent of the people in that district depend on rain water for cultivation. But due to scanty rainfall 90 per cent of the farmers in Dhenkanal constituency are facing severe drought situation. So, the entire district and the area should be declared as drought-affected.

Unless immediate steps are taken to complete the Rengali irrigation project and also to implement the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund assisted water supply project in Dhenkanal it will be very difficult to control the drought situation. At the same time, I would urge the Union Government to provide adequate funds to all the drought-affected areas in Dhenkanal and other drought-hit districts in the State so that the labour intensive work and projects for the provision of drinking water are started on a war footing. Funds should be sanctioned to complete all the on-going projects in Dhenkanal constituency expeditiously.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you as you have allowed me to raise a very important issue. In the morning, during Question Hour, some Members had raised the issue of sugercane prices whereas the question was related to the sugar mills. At that time also, the hon'ble Minister of Food could not give a satisfactory reply. As far as I know, payment of Rs.7.5 crore of sugarcane growers is outstanding in Uttar Pradesh alone and the sugar mills in the entire Uttar Pradesh have started functioning in the last week of this month i.e. on 22th. However, some of these mills have not started functioning as yet. Farmers have suffered a loss for one month as their fields have not been vacated for the next crop. Besides this, sugar mills owners are gaining time in starting their mills. They are not ensuring that the entire crop of sugarcane will be purchased by them. All these things are